

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 8-25 are pending; Claims 8-25 are newly added; and Claim 6 is amended herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 6 was objected to; and Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Usui (U.S. Pat. No. 5,879,378).

Applicants thank Examiner Roane for the interview granted Applicants' representative on December 1, 2004. During the interview, the outstanding objection to Claim 6 was discussed, as well as the outstanding rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

With regard to the objection to Claim 6, Claim 6 has been amended to no longer recite that the paper sheet is formed from the steam generating composition and a fibrous substance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

With regard to the outstanding rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as unpatentable over Usui, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described in the specification, steam beautification devices, steam towels, and the like have been used to supply appropriately heated steam to the skin, to enhance circulation of blood in the skin, as well as to maintain the skin in a desired state of moisturization. However, the steam beautification devices were not portable. Additionally, the steam beautification devices were difficult to use on body parts other than the face, and often steam was not sufficiently retained in the steam beautification devices of the prior art.

In light of these difficulties, the Applicants developed the present invention to provide a sustained supply of safe steam to the skin or mucosa in a simple and easy way.

Additionally, according to the present invention, it is possible to supply a cosmetic or pharmaceutical component simultaneously with the steam. To this end, Claim 6 recites a steam generation portion comprising a steam-generating composition and an adhesive layer.

Usui describes an exothermic device and application pad using the same. The outstanding Office Action, at page 3, cites to columns 4-24 of Usui to support the assertion that Usui describes a steam generator. However, it is respectfully submitted that the exothermic composition of Usui is not adapted to provide steam.

More specifically, Usui describes that a water retainer is included with the exothermic reaction layer.¹ Because a water retainer absorbs water during an exothermic reaction, any steam generated by water in the exothermic reaction would be absorbed by the water retainer. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Usui necessarily fails to disclose or suggest generating steam by an exothermic reaction, as recited in Claim 6.

Accordingly, as Usui fails to disclose or suggest the features of Claim 6, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 6 patentably distinguishes over Usui, and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Newly added Claims 8-25 recite features previously disclosed, for example, in the specification at pages 12-15, 18, and 19. It is therefore respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by Claims 8-25. Moreover, Claims 8-25 patentably distinguish over Usui for at least the reasons above set forth with regard to Claim 6, from which Claims 8-25 depend.

¹ Usui, col. 9, lines 36-44.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

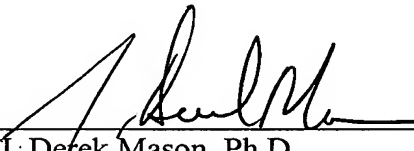
Respectfully submitted,

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